

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR,EEC, EAID

SUBJECT: EC FORTIFICATIO OF NFDM AID

REF: FASTO 56

1. WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH COMMISSION OFFICIALS IN DG-VI (AGRICULTURE) AND VIII (DEVELOPMENT) REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF EC FORTIFYING ITS NONFAT DRY MILK (NFDM) DONATIONS TO THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP).

THE COMMISSION WILL DECIDE ON THE MATTER OF VITAMIN FORTIFICATION LATER THIS WEEK. THE CONSENSUS AMONG OUR CONTACTS IS THAT THERE WILL PROBABLY BE AT LEAST SOME WFP DONATIONS OF NFDM FORTIFIED.

2. OUR CONTACT IN THE COMMISSION'S AGRICULTURAL DIRECTORATE INFORMS US THAT THERE IS ALREADY A PRECEDENT FOR THE COMMUNITY SENDING FORTIFIED NFDM UNDER THE WFP. THIS OCCURRED WITH AN EC DONATION TO PAKISTAN UNDER THE 1975 EC AID PROGRAM. THE NFDM WAS FORTIFIED AT SPECIAL WFP REQUEST. CERTAIN MEMBER STATES, E.G., THE NETHERLANDS, APPARENTLY FORTIFY THE NFDM WITH VITAMINS AS NORMAL COURSE OF ACTION.

THEY ARE FREE TO DO THIS WITH THEIR OWN NATIONAL FOOD AID ACTIONS; HOWEVER, MEMBER STATE NFDM DONATIONS DO NOT INVOLVE UNCLASSIFIED

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LARGE QUANTITIES. THE COMMISSION COULD APPROVE VITAMIN FORTIFICATION

OF COMMUNITY- FINANCED NFDM AID PROVIDED THE EC'S FOOD AID BUDGET COULD COVER IT.

3. OUR CONTACT IN THE COMMISSON'S DIRECTORATE FOR DEVELOPMENT CONFIRMS THAT THIS IS WHAT IS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION RIGHT NOW AS IT PUTS THE FINAL TOUCHES ON ITS 1976 COMMUNITY NFDM AID PROGRAM.

4. THE COMMUNITY MAY DECIDE TO FORTIFY NFDM ONLY TO CERTAIN SPECIFIED DESTINATCMNS,PARTICULARLY THOSE WHICH THE WFP DETERMINES AS APPROPRIATE BENEFICIARIES BECAUSE OF CLIMACTIC CONDITIONS, CHRONIC MALNUTRITION,ETC. ON THE OTHER HAND,HOWEVER,THE COMMISSION MIGHT DECIDE TO FORTIFY ALL NFDM AID TO ALL DESTINATIONS,BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE WFP.

5. WE SHALL REPORT TO WASHINGTON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHATEVER DECISION THE COMMISSION TAKES ON NFDM FORTIFICATION.
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